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from the paddle support bars. These tabs may be formed on the sides of the paddle along which there are few, if any, bond pads. Alternatively, the tabs may be on the same sides as the paddle support bars, particularly when the paddle support bars on the sides have few, if any, bond pads. Typically, the tabs are positioned on the long dimensions of the paddle. When the leadframe is clamped for die attach and wire bonding, a clamp member such as a circumscribing "window frame" simultaneously clamps the inner leads, paddle support bars and paddle tabs against a lower clamp member which may be a heater block. The paddle is, thus, more extensively supported and is much more resistant to flexing, bending, and lifting away from the lower clamp member during the bonding operations.

Please replace the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A5

A leadframe configuration for a semiconductor device that has a die attach paddle with paddle support bars. In addition, clamp tabs extend outwardly from lesser supported locations of the paddle to underlie a conventional lead clamp. The clamp tabs are formed as an integral part of the paddle. Normal clamping during die attach and wire bonding operations prevents paddle movement and enhances integrity of the die bond and wire bonds.

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there are few, if any, bond pads. Alternatively, the tabs may be on the same sides as the paddle support bars, particularly when the paddle support bars on the sides have few, if any, bond pads. Typically, the tabs are positioned on the long dimensions of the paddle. When the leadframe is clamped for die attach and wire bonding, a clamp member such as a circumscribing "window frame" simultaneously clamps the inner leads, paddle support bars and paddle tabs against a lower clamp member which may be a heater block. The paddle is, thus, more extensively supported and is much more resistant to flexing, bending, and lifting away from the lower clamp member during the bonding operations.

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